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Enter Gates as the No. 2 spy

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WASHINGTON—President Reagan has named career intelligence officer Robert Gates as the nation's No. 2 spy to replace Deputy CIA Director John McMahon, who resigned for "personal reasons" after 34 years in the intelligence service.

McMahon's resignation, announced by the White

House Tuesday, was hailed by two conservative lobbying groups. The Washington Post yesterday said the groups, Free the Eagle and the Federation for American-Afghan Action, had mounted nationwide letter-writing campaigns calling for McMahon's removal.

The two groups blamed him for holding up supplies of more effective weapons, including anti-aircraft mis-

siles, to the anti-Communist resistance in Afghanistan, The Post reported.

McMahon, 56, gave no explanation for his resignation other than to say in a letter to Reagan that he had "reached a stage where I should move on."

The White House statement cited "personal reasons" for the deputy's departure, which is to be effective March 29.